REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 10, 2005. A petition for a one month extension of time is submitted herewith. Claim 1 has been cancelled and rewritten as new claim 8. Claims 2-4 have been amended. New claims 9-10, which depend from claim 8, have also been added. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments and new claims. Support for the new claims and amendments may be found, for example, at pages 10-15 of the instant application. Claims 5-7 have been cancelled in view of the prior reply electing claims 1-4. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to these cancelled claims. Claims 2-4 and 8-10 are thus presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

As mentioned above, original claim 1 has been cancelled and rewritten as new claim 8, which requires "means for inputting an encoded digital video signal; means for storing a decoding program for decoding the encoded digital video signal; processing means operable to execute the stored decoding program to decode the encoded digital video signal and to generate a decoded digital video signal as a plurality of frames in a decoding operation; buffer means for storing the decoded digital video signal as data corresponding to the plurality of frames; and FIFO means for storing management data indicating an output order of the plurality of frames; wherein if the decoding operation on the encoded digital video signal is not completed within one frame period, the decoding operation is continued in the following frame period."

Method claim 3 has been amended to require "inputting an encoded digital video signal; accessing a decoding program for decoding the encoded digital video signal from a program memory; executing the decoding program to decode the encoded digital video signal in a decoding operation to thereby generate

a decoded digital video signal as a plurality of frames; storing the decoded digital video signal in a buffer as data corresponding to the plurality of frames; and storing management data in a FIFO format, the management data indicating an output order of the plurality of frames; wherein if the decoding operation on the encoded digital video signal is not completed within one frame period, the decoding operation is continued in the following frame period."

Storage medium claim 4 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 3, and now requires "A storage medium storing a computer-readable program for allowing a digital video signal processing apparatus to execute a decoding operation, the program comprising: inputting an encoded digital video signal; accessing a decoding program for decoding the encoded digital video signal from a program memory; executing the decoding program to decode the encoded digital video signal in the decoding operation to thereby generate a decoded digital video signal as a plurality of frames; storing the decoded digital video signal in a buffer as data corresponding to a plurality of frames; and storing management data in a FIFO format, the management data indicating an output order of the plurality of frames; wherein if the decoding operation on the encoded digital video signal is not completed within one frame period, the decoding operation is continued in the following frame period."

Original claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,008,849 ("*Frencken* '849"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Frencken '849 discloses a two-step MPEG decoding process. (*See* Abstract.) Specifically:

> The step of decoding and the step of display are
> subdivided into two sub-steps of decoding signals
> corresponding to each field and into two sub-steps
> of displaying these fields, and each of these sub-

steps of decoding a field immediately precedes each
sub-step of displaying this field and is effected at
the same rate, <u>without any buffer storage during the
storage step which precedes the display step</u>. With
this absence of storage in the display memory, the
operation can be termed as "decoding-on-the-fly".
(Col. 9, line 61 to col. 10, line 3, emphasis
added.)

In contrast, claims 3 and 4 require "storing the
decoded digital video signal in a buffer as data corresponding
to the plurality of frames," and claim 8 requires "buffer means
for storing the decoded digital video signal as data
corresponding to the plurality of frames." In fact, *Frencken*
'849 teaches away from what is claimed in independent claims 3,
4 and 8 as "[t]he principle of the invention is <u>no longer to
store the decoded information components relating to pictures B
in the display memory</u>, but to decode the coded information
components corresponding to these pictures exactly at the
instant when the resultant decoded information components must
be available for display, in accordance with a principle
referred to as decoding-on-the-fly." (Col. 9, lns. 28-36,
emphasis added.)

In addition, *Frencken* '849 does not disclose other
elements of independent claims 3, 4 or 8. By way of example
only, while *Frencken* '849 does teach storing an encoded video
signal in a FIFO memory <u>prior to</u> decoding, it does not teach or
suggest storing management data indicating an output order of
the plurality of decoded frames in a FIFO format, as required by
independent claims 3 or 4, or a FIFO means for storing
management data indicating an output order of the plurality of
decoded frames, as required by independent claim 8.
Furthermore, each of these three independent claims also
requires that "if the decoding operation on the encoded digital
video signal is not completed within one frame period, the

7

decoding operation is continued in the following frame period." The on-the-fly decoding process of *Frencken* '849 does not operate in this manner and there is no teaching or suggestion to do so.

Neither *Frencken* '849 nor any of the other references of record discloses, either alone or in combination, all of the limitations present in any of the pending independent claims. Therefore, for at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3, 4 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 2, 9 and 10 depend from independent claim 8 and contain all the limitations thereof, as well as other features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2, 9 and 10 are also in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.
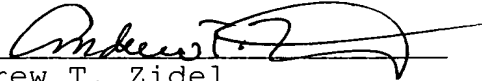
If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 7, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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